



Education
and Training

LIVING OUR
VALUES
EVERYDAY



VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

“THE WELLINGTON WAY” (INCLUDING MINISTERIAL ORDER 870)

OUR VISION AND OBJECTIVE

“Wellington Secondary College is committed to every student achieving their potential by:

- *Providing stimulating, supportive and safe learning environments in and out of school hours in all school activities by employing evidence-based educational theory and practice.*
- *Encouraging positive relationships based on tolerance and respect for individual differences and needs.*
- *Empowering students to take responsibility for their own learning and safety and to develop as resilient life-long learners and proactive global citizens.”*

Our school’s vision is to prepare young people to become active, engaged and responsible citizens of the local and global community. It aims to prepare students to contend with a very dynamic 21st century in which creativity, communication, collaboration, connectedness to the world and adaptability are key features. The school aspires to provide a contemporary approach to teaching and learning in its purposeful learning environment.

The College values achievement, excellence, learning, caring, curiosity, respect and responsibility, perseverance, integrity, inclusiveness, respect for diversity, honesty and equity. Sitting at the centre of its work, the school believes in high expectations in all students and a commitment to hard work.

The school encourages the participation of our students in developing and maintaining safe and inclusive learning environments.

Wellington Secondary College has a zero tolerance to bullying and child abuse.

Statements which affirm the College’s principles are found in the vision of the school on the website, in the student diary and in documents such as the prospectus and handbooks for students, parents and staff.

In all documents, in all practice by students and teachers, in work with the School Council and the community, in all teaching and learning programs, in all school initiatives, in all internal and external

interactions, in all organisational structures and practices the Wellington Way vision of the school will sit at the centre and there will be expectations about all work aligning with the school vision.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our school.

POLICY

Wellington Secondary College is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our school and parents and carers to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Wellington Secondary College support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- elected government
- the rule of law
- equal rights for all before the law
- freedom of religion
- freedom of speech and association
- the values of openness and tolerance.

This policy outlines our school's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is reflected on our school website, in our staff induction handbook, in the student planner and in enrolment/transition packs.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we

- display posters and banners that promote your values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

VALUES

The College Philosophy is reflected in our motto:

‘Caring, Striving, Learning’

This is the “Wellington Way” and as espoused through our vision and motto, underpins everything we do.



THE COLLEGE MOTTO

‘CARING’ (FOR OTHERS)

Tolerance for others, helpfulness and co-operation are valuable qualities for all students

‘STRIVING’ (FOR SUCCESS)

Goal setting, hard work and commitment are important requirements for personal success

‘LEARNING’ (FOR LIFE)

Education is a lifelong process and a right that should not be hindered by inappropriate behaviour

THE COLLEGE CREST

The crest was updated in 2001 and is now stylised

‘CIRCLE’

Symbolises the nature of education that is all encompassing and never ending. The clasped circle represents the concept of caring, respect and working together

‘TREE’

Illustrates the history of the Mulgrave District that was originally cultivated as fruit orchards

‘BIRDS OF FLIGHT’

Depicts striving for success as well as portraying the ‘Vanellus’ (Spur Wing Plover)

‘BOOK’

Is the traditional symbol for learning and knowledge

MISSION

All students at the College will have access to appropriate teaching programs supported by learning technology resources, which prepare them for further education and the workforce. These programs will include academic studies, the arts, sport and physical education, and personal and social development.

The College recognises that quality teaching is the key improving student outcomes.

The College provides a safe, supportive, caring and pleasant environment to promote positive student, teacher, parent and community relationships and to engender a positive and inclusive attitude to learning.

Extra-curricular activities that supplement and extend each student's interests, skills and personal development are supported.

Programs are designed to provide the opportunity for all students to:

- Prepare for active participation in society
- Enjoy schooling and develop a love of learning
- Develop the ability to work with others
- Foster adaptability to change

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

In September 2016, Wellington Secondary College formally adopted a commitment to Ministerial Order 870 and Child Safety.

We acknowledge that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture. We acknowledge a shared responsibility to create a positive and safe learning environment for the children and young people at our school.

As Principals and School leaders, we will:

- model positive behaviour and effective leadership
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- work collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful and safe behaviour is expected of everyone
- behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession and meet core responsibilities to provide safe and inclusive environments
- plan, implement and review our work to ensure the care, safety, security and general wellbeing of all students at school
- identify and support students who are or may be at risk
- do our best to ensure every child achieves their personal and learning potential
- work with parents to understand their child's needs and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- respond appropriately when safe and inclusive behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required
- inform parents of the school's communication and complaints procedures
- ask any person who is acting in an offensive, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate way to leave the school grounds.

As Teachers and Non-teaching school staff, we will:

- model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our profession
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- proactively engage with parents about student outcomes
- work with parents to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- work collaboratively with parents to improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for students with additional needs

- communicate with the principal and school leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents
- treat all members of the school community with respect.

As Parents and Carers, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our child
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- ensure our child attends school on time, every day the school is open for instruction
- take an interest in our child's school and learning
- work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child
- communicate constructively with the school and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns
- support school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students
- follow the school's processes for communication with staff and making complaints
- treat all school leaders, staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect.

As Students, we will:

- model positive behaviour to other students
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community.
- comply with and model school values
- behave in a safe and responsible manner
- respect ourselves, other members of the school community and the school environment.
- actively participate in school
- not disrupt the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.

As Community members, we will:

- model positive behaviour to the school community
- treat other members of the school community with respect
- support school staff to maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students
- utilise the school's established processes for communication with staff and submitting complaints.

UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to school grounds (for more information, see our *Visitors Policy*).

Unreasonable behaviour that is demonstrated by school staff, parents, carers, students or members of our school community will not be tolerated at school, or during school activities.

Unreasonable behaviour includes:

- speaking or behaving in a rude, manipulative, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via electronic communication or social media, or over the telephone
- the use or threat of violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space

- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic or derogatory comments
- the use of social media or public forums to make inappropriate or threatening remarks about the school, staff or students.

Harassment, bullying, violence, aggression, threatening behaviour and unlawful discrimination are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at our school.

Unreasonable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* may lead to further investigation and the implementation of appropriate consequences by the school Principal.

At the Principal's discretion, unreasonable behaviour may be managed by:

- requesting that the parties attend a mediation or counselling sessions
- implementing specific communication protocols
- written warnings
- conditions of entry to school grounds or school activities
- exclusion from school grounds or attendance at school activities
- reports to Victoria Police
- legal action

Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in according with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy* and *Bullying Prevention Policy*.

Our *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* ensures that everyone in our school community will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we will strive to create a school that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

[Child Safe Community Code of Conduct Policy](#)

[Anti Bullying Policy](#)

[Inclusion Policy](#)

[Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on March 13, 2018 and is scheduled for review in March 2019.